

37. (new) A composition according to claim 1 further comprising an oligosaccharide.

38. (new) A composition according to claim 1 or 37 further comprising a divalent metal cation.

C1 39. (new) A composition according to claim 38 wherein said divalent metal cation is selected from the group consisting of copper, zinc, selenium, calcium, and magnesium.

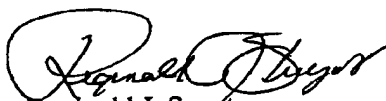
40. (new) A composition according to claim 37 wherein said oligosaccharide is selected from the group consisting of fructo oligosaccharides, soy oligosaccharides, and inulin.

REMARKS

In the Examiner's Amendment of September 23, 2003, the Examiner amended claim 1 and cancelled claims 9, 10, 11, and 12. In the Interview Summary filed by Applicants on September 16, 2003, Applicants did not accept the proposed amendment. Therefore, the Examiner's Amendment was made without the approval of Applicants.

Accordingly, the present amendment is presented to reinstate the previous version of claim 1, as well as the subject matter of claims 9, 10, 11, and 12. In addition, a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement accompanies this amendment. An action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP


Reginald J. Suyat
Registration No. 28,172

P.O. Box 778
Berkeley, CA 94704-0778